



# ***Vacancy Announcement***

## **USDA FOREST SERVICE Ashley National Forest**

### ***Safety Officer GS-0018-11***

The Ashley National Forest is looking to fill the Safety Officer position located at the Supervisor's office in Vernal, UT. If you are interested in being considered for this position please apply online at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) using the following announcement numbers:

- **14-110401-00732G-bjo Merit or Status Candidates (Merit Promotion and VEOA Eligible)**  
***Opens Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Closes Friday, March 14, 2014***
- **14-110401-00732DP-bjo Open to all U.S. Citizens**  
***Opens Friday, March 7, 2014. Closes Thursday, March 13, 2014***

***Point of Contact: John Erickson, 435-781-5101***

### **Position Description:**

This position is located on a National Forest. Incumbent is responsible for administering a safety and occupational health program on the Ashley National Forest, Supervisor's Office. The incumbent advises principal staff members of safety and occupational health requirements, standards, and procedures. Establishes guides and encourages supervisor-employee safety committees to identify and eliminate hazardous equipment operations and unsafe working conditions.

### **Major Duties:**

Incumbent has primary responsibility for planning, managing, organizing, budgeting, and directing the Forest safety and occupational health program. Implements policies and work practices that will assure safe, healthful, and efficient operations for permanent and seasonal employees, volunteers, contractors, and the visiting public.

Conducts strategic planning related to development of annual action plans and budget development. Annual action plans address reduction of hazards identified during inspections and evaluations, to reduce accident trends, and to implement various initiatives.

Interprets and applies rules and regulations established by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, National Fire Protection Association, and other regulatory and standardizing agencies. Determines and interprets required new measures to control and eliminate hazards to employees, equipment, and materials. Examines new OSHA standards and

agency directives and adapts them for implementation. Identifies the need for supplemental policies and works with the Regional Safety Manager to provide them.

Participates as a safety management team member to develop and implement procedures for accident prevention and hazard control.

Evaluates unusual and complicated operations such as work with hazardous materials, fire, forestry, recreation, transportation of materials and equipment, road maintenance, fluid and solid minerals. Provides technical expertise to managers with regard to risk factors, OSHA requirements, proper selection and use of personal protective equipment, and safe work practices. Recommends changes as appropriate.

Analyzes unsafe conditions and operations in response to employee complaints and supervisory requests. Provides recommendations for abatements to the supervisor and management team.

Examines pertinent contract, manual supplements, and unit policy clauses, terms, and specifications to determine employee and visitor compliance while conducting local inspections and reviews.

Interviews witnesses, performs accident investigations and participates as part of an accident investigation team to determine cause and corrective actions to reduce loss to the Government. Sketches accident scenes, interviews witnesses, analyzes hazards identified as causal factors, and makes recommendations related to the causal factors. Recommends appropriate changes and prepares appropriate reports.

Develops, directs, and/or conducts safety training programs for managers, supervisors, and employees that include the following areas: safety orientation, employee safety rights and responsibilities, accident prevention, First responder Awareness, Motor Vehicle Safety, equipment operation, Employee Right-to-Know, Blood borne Pathogens, and risk management.

Manages and utilizes agency safety management automated databases. Incumbent inputs and retrieves safety data and analyzes and develops incident trends from the data. Provides management with recommendations for corrections and changes.

**About Vernal, Utah:** Vernal has a population of approximately 8,000 people and the surrounding Uinta Basin population is approximately 20,000 according to 2000 census bureau data. The Uinta Basin is greatly influenced by the oil and gas industry, which is in the middle of a job boom, so the population numbers have noticeably increased over the past 6 years. Vernal is situated in northeast Utah about 35 minutes from the Colorado border (and Dinosaur National Monument) and 1.5 hours south of the Wyoming border. Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area on the Ashley National Forest is a neighboring district that is a good reference point for locating the area since it is easily discernible on most maps. Vernal is approximately 2 hours from ski resorts such as Park City, UT and Steamboat Springs, CO; and approximately 2.5 to 3 hours from cities along the Wasatch front like Salt Lake City and Provo, UT. The Vernal area has year-round recreation throughout the Uinta Mountains and Uinta Basin including fishing, hiking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, motorized and non-motorized boating, camping, hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and more. Vernal city has recreation leagues for sports such as basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, and other activities like yoga and table tennis. There is no

government housing in Vernal however there are several homes on the market in Vernal. For more information go to: <http://www.vernalchamber.com/>

### ***Climate***

Vernal sits at approximately 5,000 feet above sea level. Vernal enjoys four beautiful temperate seasons; the climate is semi-arid with low humidity. Annual precipitation averages 15-20", mostly in the form of winter snow and spring/fall rain. Winter temperatures usually hover in the 20s-30s during the day, but will occasionally drop to sub-zero. Mid-summer temperatures can reach 100 degrees, but generally average in the low-mid 90s, dipping into the 50s at night.

### ***Schools***

Vernal has six elementary schools, one middle school, one junior high, one high school, and a private Christian school. The Uintah District Learning Center provides education opportunities for children with special needs. Child day-care centers and preschools are also available.

Utah State University-Uintah Basin (with branch campuses in Vernal and Roosevelt) employs about 25 resident faculty and offers 2 Associates Degrees, 23 Bachelor's Degrees, 12 Masters Degrees, and 1 doctorate degree. Uintah Basin Applied Technology College offers Certificates of Competency for technical entry-level work.

### ***Health Care***

The Ashley Valley Regional Medical Center is a 39-bed acute care facility with an emergency room and trauma care facility with 34 affiliated physicians. Specialties include family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, radiology, pathology, orthopedics, ENT, general surgery, urology, OB/GYN, podiatry, ophthalmology and physiatrists. Physicians from Salt Lake City also provide specialized, part-time services in the area. Major hospitals are located in Salt Lake City and Provo. The community also has several dentists, two optometrists, and five chiropractors. A variety of mental health professionals have practices in the community.

For extended medical care, Uintah Care Center is a 50-bed nursing home, with additional facilities to provide outpatient care on a daily basis.

Three veterinary clinics provide care for both large and small animals.

### ***Housing***

The average apartment rental is around \$750.00 to \$900.00 a month. Rental homes are not readily available. Average purchase price for a basic three-bedroom home ranges from \$185,000 to \$290,000. Government housing is not available.

### ***Economic Base***

Oil and gas exploration and production, along with oil shale, tar sands, gilsonite, and phosphate, are the major components of the local economy. Tourism is also a growing industry. Several government offices are located in Vernal and include the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Farmers Home Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and city, county, and state offices.

### ***Recreation Opportunities***

Vernal has parks, a bowling alley, movie theaters, a water slide, and an 18-hole golf course. Tennis courts, baseball and softball fields are also available. In addition, the Uintah Community Center offers an array of

recreational opportunities for all ages including indoor lap pool, indoor leisure pool with slides and water toys, a climbing wall, two full-size gyms, indoor running track, cardio balcony, an aerobic dance area, a strength area, on-site child care, three party rooms, classrooms, a public meeting area, and conference rooms.

Basketball, volleyball, and baseball leagues are available for adults. Locally sponsored children's activities include Little League football, baseball, basketball, soccer, wrestling and a swim team. The Uintah Recreation District also sponsors several "fun runs" and a triathlon (the Dino-Tri) each year.

Several nearby rivers and lakes offer excellent fishing and boating opportunities, and white-water raft trips are available through local guides. Mountain biking is a popular activity and there is a growing network of biking trails on public lands. Cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and ice fishing are popular winter sports.

Vernal has several dance schools instructing ballet, jazz, clogging, and tap. Gymnastic classes for children are also available.

### ***Civic and Service Organizations***

Active community and service clubs in Vernal include the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce, Lions, Elks, Toastmasters, Rotary, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Masonic Lodge, Search and Rescue, Cultural Arts, and American Legion, to name a few. The Utah Field House of Natural History is a state park facility located in downtown Vernal, and is a popular destination for tourists and area residents alike. The Golden Age Senior Center provides activities, luncheons, transportation, and dances for area senior citizens.

A new, 30,000 square foot county library was recently completed and features a children's library, teen library, community room, public use computers, two small group study rooms, library classroom, and a reading area with a fireplace, study tables, and comfortable chairs.

### ***Churches***

A wide range of religious services are available in the area.

### ***Cultural Events***

Several cultural events occur throughout the year, including the annual Outlaw Trail Festival, Festival of the Arts, Uintah County Fair, Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo, Dinosaur Days, Dino-Soar Hot Air Balloon Festival, a fall story-telling festival, and the annual Christmas Fair. The Uintah Arts Council sponsors several musical and other cultural events. Vernal also hosts a small Farmer's Market every Saturday from July through September. In addition to fresh fruit and other produce, a variety of crafts, locally produced meats, and artwork is offered for sale.